

DDI-

03082/84

ADDI CHRONO

23 May 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Comptroller

VIA: Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence **RKJ**

FROM: Clarus W. Rice  
Director of Central Reference, DI

SUBJECT: BIOSTAR

REFERENCE: Memo for DDI fm Comptroller, dtd 30 Mar 84,  
Sub: Results of the 15 Mar 83 Executive  
Committee Review of Ongoing Initiatives for  
the 1986 CIA Program

1. The referenced memorandum requested the DDI to study OCR's special data storage needs, lower cost alternatives, the degree of automation required and comparable Agency requirements. It also requested a review of existing BIOSTAR technology. [ ]

25X1

2. The review of existing technology is underway by a contractor. OD&E has selected a contractor who will survey the ten most promising commercial systems now in development and survey at least four other US Government agencies that are interested in developing an optical disk storage capability. Prior to undertaking the survey, OD&E requested various components of the Agency, including the Comptroller, to identify commercial systems. The results of that survey are due to OD&E in the summer. The contractual study will be forwarded to the Comptroller. [ ]

25X1

3. A contractual study by [ ] for OCR management on the design and evaluation of alternative system concepts for OCR's large biographic files was completed in October 1982. This study covers the points requested by the Executive Committee--special data storage needs, the degree of automation required, and the various cost alternatives. The advantages and disadvantages of each alternative are also spelled out. Each option is costed on a ten-year basis. A copy of the study is attached. [ ]

25X1

25X1

25X1

SUBJECT: BIOSTAR

4. The contractual study was undertaken by this Office to ensure that all possible alternatives would be considered before we undertook any automation of our biographic files. The study identified seven alternatives for OCR management to consider including:

- a. Maintain the existing system for the next 10 years,
- b. Maintain existing system but convert the large 5 x 8 biographic card files to updatable microfiche,
- c. Develop computer indexes to microfilmed biographic holdings,
- d. Automated indexes with both paper and filmed holdings,
- e. Automated indexes with optical disk and paper storage,
- f. Full text retrieval with optical disk storage, and
- g. Maintain current system for next five years, prepare files for optical disk and then connect to disk storage.

Chapter 4 of the attached study provides estimated costs for each alternative. OCR personnel and the contractor can be made available to brief the Comptroller's Staff on the study. [ ]

25X1

5. [ ] recommendation was Option g, because they believed that an optical disk (in late 1982) was not available on the market to meet OCR's immediate needs. They were unaware of what was underway in the classified area that OD&E was monitoring. [ ]

25X1

25X1

6. OCR provided the [ ] study and our BIOSTAR requirements to OD&E and after almost a year of informal working relationships, a formal agreement was reached between the two Offices. The Offices of Personnel, Security, Information Services, Finance, and the DO's Information Management Staff have been briefed in detail on the BIOSTAR system. Briefings on the system have also been given to all members of the DCI's Intelligence Information Handling Committee. [ ]

25X1

25X1

7. The BIOSTAR contractor [ ] is in the process of building with FY83 and FY84 funds an engineering model that is due for delivery in October 1984. The engineering model will be a small-scale version of the entire system. It will contain all of the the basic equipment and software, but will store only 2000 pages of information on 200 people. One of the pieces of

25X1

SECRET

SUBJECT: BIOSTAR

equipment being delivered is a scanner to read hard copy documents and convert them into signals that the optical disks can accept. OD&E has already done a complete survey of the scanner manufacturers and is convinced that no commercial firm plans to develop a scanner that will meet OCR's input rate and quality requirements. The FY83 and FY84 funding that we have given OD&E will allow the contractor to build a scanner for the engineering model that will satisfy the quality standards but will be extremely slow, requiring about eight minutes to scan each page. [redacted]

25X1

8. In the event that the OD&E contractual study does not identify any similar technology in the foreseeable future and, if the engineering model provides a hands-on demonstration capability that we can show other Agency offices, OCR plans to use its FY85 base BIOSTAR funds to build a faster scanner (reads a page in 5 to 11 seconds). Such a scanner would have use in any Agency optical disk application and probably would be a better investment than the one now planned. [redacted]

25X1

9. All the new initiative funding for BIOSTAR in FY85 and FY86 has been removed from OCR's budget. [redacted]

25X1  
25X1[redacted]  
Clarus W. Rice

Attachment

DI/D/OCR/CWRice [redacted] (23 May 1984)

25X1

## Distribution:

Original - Addressee  
1 - ADDI  
1 - D/OD&E  
1 - C/ISG  
1 - C/EA/ISG  
1 - C/PMS/DI  
1 - D/Planning Group/PMS/DI  
1 - OD/OCR Chrono  
1 - OD/OCR Subject

SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

File BIOSTAR  
1982

return  
to  
CIISg

BIOSTAR PHASE I STUDY  
  
DESIGN AND EVALUATION  
OF  
ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM CONCEPTS  
  
FINAL REPORT

PLEASE RETURN TO

OD/CCR 2-E-60 - HQ

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

30 MAR 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration  
Deputy Director for Intelligence  
Deputy Director for Operations  
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

FROM: Daniel A. Childs, Jr.  
Comptroller

SUBJECT: Results of the 15 March 1984 Executive Committee Review of  
Ongoing Initiatives for the 1986 CIA Program [ ]

25X1

1. This memorandum summarizes the results of the Executive Committee review of the Agency's ongoing initiatives for 1986-1990. The Executive Committee approved the funding profiles for the ongoing initiatives as shown on the Attachment. These profiles should be used in the upcoming ICS review of ongoing initiatives and in the 1986 program submissions due on 6 April 1984. [ ]

25X1

2. The Executive Committee requested further study on several issues and will reexamine them in early June. These issues are as follows:

#### DESIST

- The DDI will provide to the ExCom by 1 June 1984 a report that addresses the feasibility of limiting the number of users who have access to DESIST and the cost implications of exceeding that limit.

#### BIOSTAR

- The DDI will provide a report to the ExCom by 1 June 1984 on lower cost alternatives that address the extent of OCR's special data storage needs, the degree of automation required, and comparable requirements elsewhere in the Agency. The study will pay particular attention to reviewing applicable existing technology available to meet some or all of OCR's needs.

#### Expanded DTS Role

- The profile is tentatively approved.